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OLD QUESTION TO THE FRONT

Just How Much Woman Should Spend
on Dress Seems as Much of
a Puzzle as Ever.

A Parisian woman ran up a bill in
one year amounting to \$2,750 for
dresses and furs. Her husband was
sued. He stated that his last coat him
\$300 a year, therefore credit to his
wife for over \$2,000 was unreasonable.
The court decided that a married
woman cannot spend in dress
more than the amount of the rent
paid for the joint home of husband
and wife without laying herself open
to a charge of extravagance, and the
court reduced the bill to \$800. (There
is a saying that the rent should not
exceed one-fourth of the income.)

The scene now opens in the court
of chancery, Jersey City. Vice Chan-
cellor Garrison stated there that the
utmost extent to which a man could
be asked to go in supplying his wife
with "outer clothing" was as follows:
Suits, \$20; coat, \$18; pair of shoes,
\$4; one pair of corsets, \$1. "It is
common, the court knows, for women
to spend \$75 or \$100 for a suit with
which to go to bridge parties and
cause their sisters to turn green with
envy. But it is no part of a husband's
duty to provide means of causing other
women unhappiness.

"I have seen women in \$18 coats
which looked fine on them. There
isn't a married man in the world who
doesn't know that for \$1 corsets can
be bought which will set off a woman's
figure most engagingly." The
report of that case includes the state-
ment that Vice Chancellor Garrison's
wife is "one of the handsomest and
best dressed women of all Hudson
country."

WELCOME COMING OF LOCUST

Sudanese Consider Insects, Elsewhere
Regarded as Pests, as a Most
Palatable Food.

The latest advices from Khartoum,
in the Sudan, state that the usual
ditches have been dug in all direc-
tions in anticipation of the summer
rains, which, however, have as yet
not put in an appearance. In the
meantime these ditches are having
their uses, for a plague of locusts
has set in. Immense swarms have
for days been passing over the city.
Locusts of course do a vast amount
of damage to the fields. They multi-
ply most rapidly and wherever they
settle they devour every vestige of
green and leave the land bare. The
Sudanese are waging a vigorous cam-
paign against them and their zeal is
whetted by the fact that locusts con-
stitute for them a very palatable dish.
These insects are usually caught by
the "Cyprus system," which consists
in digging trenches and erecting on
their farther side tin screens against
which they dash and kill themselves,
eventually falling into the trenches.

It is not thought that this invasion
will reach Egypt. The last time that
country was visited by locusts was
in 1904, when no fewer than 1,000-
000,000 egg masses were destroyed.
The work was carried out by over
240,000 men and cost the government
close on \$50,000, which was in all
conscience a cheap riddance of the
plague seeing that it might quite easily
have ruined the entire cotton crop,
not to mention crops of other sum-
mer products.

Lime Salts and Health.

The Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift,
in an article on the influence
of lime salts on the constitution and
health, speaks of some physicians
who are coming more and more to
believe that the use of calcium (lime)
in various forms is the keystone of
individual hygiene. Reinhardt, a
German physician, quoted, says:
"Neurasthenic, overworked and physi-
cally depressed persons are so rapidly
healed by the chloride of calcium
solution that they cannot show suf-
ficient gratitude. They feel as if new-
born, full of zest of life, stronger
and more enduring than ever and
twenty years younger." It is not im-
probable that there is here an over-
measure of enthusiasm. Many of
the older physicians will remember
Doctor Brown-Sequard and the won-
derful things that were to be done
by his discovery in making old fel-
lows young again. The melancholy
Jacques observed that "from hour to
hour we ripe and rot and then from
hour to hour we rot and rot"—the
decay of the natural forces of age.
This is as true today as it was in
"As You Like It," in the forest of
Arden.

Overwhelmed With Work.

Along in the '60s Pat Casey pushed
a wheelbarrow across the plains from
St. Joseph, Mo., to Georgetown, Colo.,
shortly after that he "struck it rich."
In fact, he was credited with having
more wealth than anyone else in Colo-
rado. A man of great shrewdness and
ability, he was exceedingly sensitive
over his inability to read or write.
One day an old timer met him with:
"How are you getting along, Pat?"
"Go 'way from me, now," said Pat,
genially, "me head's burstin' wid busi-
ness. It takes two lid pencils a day to
do me wurruk."—Everybody's Maga-
zine.

Russia's Aerial Defense.

Another of the great powers of Eu-
rope has followed the example of Ger-
many and Great Britain in the de-
velopment of an aerial armament.
The minister of war is planning to
have a flying squadron established in
every camp, and already has secured
six airships, known as zero-dread-
noughts, which are equipped with
machine guns, bomb throwers and
lance telegraphy.

EVEN FLOWERS MUST LABOR

Nature Demands Its Toll From Every
Living Thing, and Accepts
No Excuses.

However fine and dainty a flower
may look, it is pressed to do a great
service and its colors and forms are
all suited to its work. It must bring
forth the fruit, or the continuity of
plant life will be broken and the
earth will be turned into a desert ere
long.

The color and the smell of the flow-
er are all for some purpose, therefore
no sooner is it fertilized by the bee,
no sooner does the time of its fruition
arrive, than it sheds its exquisite pet-
als and a cruel economy compels it
to give up its sweetest perfume. It
has no time to flaunt its finery, for it
is busy beyond measure.

Viewed from without, necessity
seems to be the only factor in Na-
ture, for which everything works and
moves. There the bud develops into
the flower, the flower into the fruit,
the fruit into the seed, the seed into a
new plant again, and so forth, the
chain of activity running on unbroken.
Should there crop up any disturbance
or impediment, no excuse would be ac-
cepted and the unfortunate thing so
choked in its movement would at
once be labeled as rejected, and be
bound to die and disappear post haste.

In the great office of Nature there
are innumerable departments with
endless work going on, and the fine
flower that you behold there, gaudily
attired and scented like a dandy, is
by no means what it appears to be,
but rather is like a laborer toiling in
the sun and shower, who has to sub-
mit to a clear account of his work, and
has no breathing space to enjoy him-
self in a playful frolic.—Rabindranath
Tagore, in the Atlantic Monthly.

MAIL CLERK UTTERS PROTEST

Wall Should Appeal to Those Who
Have Habit of Pinning Their
Written Sheets Together.

"If people must stick pins into their
letters, I wish they would cover up
the points so that they wouldn't push
through," said a mail clerk whose
hands were disfigured by tiny scratch-
es. "I must get about a hundred dig-
a day from pins that systematic folks
use to hold their correspondence to-
gether. I never could make out, any-
how, why so many letters need to be
finished off with a pin.

"Of course, I understand that about
half of those written by women have
a postscript in the shape of samples of
dress goods or newspaper cuttings,
which perhaps require a pin or two to
hold them in place, but even that habit
cannot account for the large number
of letters that come through the post-
office with a pin sticking out of one
corner.

"I have come to the conclusion that
many writers so mail their manuscript
with malicious intent. It may not be
us fellows in the postoffice against
whom they hold a grudge, but we are
the ones that usually get the benefit
of those pins."

How to Wed.

Why should not the church which
solemnizes marriage go behind the
ceremony, encouraging young people
to wed and giving them needed in-
struction concerning marriage life?
Just this the New York diocese of the
Protestant Episcopal church proposes
to do. In the discussion of the mar-
riage problem it was unanimously
agreed that health certificates should
be required for marriage. The much
greater problem of how the church
is to bring young people together with
marriage as the aim and how to make
the married state happy and perma-
nent has been turned over to the so-
cial service commission to work out.
—Leslie's.

Manners Can Be Acquired.

An English critic says that the ath-
letic girl has no manners and has
other faults. But after the brilliant
showing of a little Baltimore girl late-
ly in rescuing several children single-
handed from a burning house, a re-
scue made possible by her practice at
athletic exercises, the lack of polish
more or less can easily be forgiven.
Manners can always be acquired, but
it demands very quick action and abili-
ty to save lives. The mistake of such
critics is to lay the blame on athletics
when that blame is due to entirely dif-
ferent causes. The old idea that gen-
tleness went with weakness and wom-
anliness with timidity is now exploded.
—Baltimore American.

Profitable British Fisheries.

The British fisheries yield about
2,500,000,000 pounds annually, for
which the "ultimate consumers" are
believed to pay at least \$125,000,000.
In view of the part which herring
and other small fishes play in this
total, it may be within the truth to
estimate the number of fishes caught
in an average year by the fishermen
of the United Kingdom, at two bil-
lion or more. For all Europe this en-
ormous number may be multiplied by
three, perhaps by four.

Dry Dock a Dutch Invention.

A correspondent in Holland draws
our attention to the fact that the con-
struction in that country of a floating
dock of 14,000 tons, for Soerabaya har-
bor in the Dutch Indies, should remind
us that the floating dry dock is a
Dutch invention, and that many float-
ing docks of this type are built on
Dutch ways and towed to their desti-
nation. Dry-dock towing is a special-
ty, and many foreign-built docks are
towed to their destination by Dutch
tugs.—Scientific American.

MOMENTS WORTH LIVING FOR

One Must Have the Soul of a Poet to
Appreciate the Rhapsody Here
Indulged In.

I was skating on a patch of ice in
the park, under a poverty-stricken sky
flying a pitiful rag of sunset. Some
little muckers were gying a slim,
raw-boned Irish girl of fifteen, who
circled and darted under their banter
with complete unconcern. She was in
the fledgling stage, all legs and arms,
tall and adorably awkward, with a
huge hat full of rusty feathers, thin
skirts tucked up above spindling
ankles, and a gay aplomb and swing
in the body that was ravishing. We
caught hands in midflight, and skated
for an hour, almost alone and quite
silent, while the rag of sunset rotted
to pieces. I have had few sensations
in life that I would exchange for the
warmth of her hand through the rag-
ged glove, and the pathetic curve of
the half-formed breast where the
back of my wrist touched her body.
I came away mystically shaken and
elate. It is thus the angels converse.
She was something absolutely authen-
tic, new, and inexplicable, something
which only nature could mix for the
heart's intoxication, a compound of
ragamuffin, pal, mistress, nun, sister,
harlequin, outcast, and bird of God—
with something else bafflingly suf-
fused, something ridiculous and frail
and savage and tender. With a world
offering such recontres, such airy
strifes and adventures, who would not
live a thousand years stone dumb? I
would, to think on the shut lid and
granite lip of him who has done with
the sunset and skating, and has turned
away his face from all manner of
Irish.—William Vaughn Moody, in the
Atlantic.

THAT ONE MOMENT OF LIFE

Her Idea of It Was Not Exactly His
Though Both Recognized Its
Tragic Intensity.

He—Did you ever know a moment
when the very air throbbed with emo-
tion?

She—Yes, yes!

He—When your heart felt like a
bird fluttering 'neath your hand?

She—Yes, yes!

He (drawing nearer)—When the
whole world was centered so close
to you that eyes answered eyes?

She (edging away from him and
his eyes)—Yes, yes, I have known
it—I have—I have!

He (more and more fervently)—
And into that moment crowds years
and years of suffocating intensity?

She—Yes, yes, and its memory will
live forever!

He (makes move to take her in
his arms)—And that moment—that
moment is—

She—Was—you mean was that day
when the score was tied, the bases
full, two out and Baker up?

In about ten minutes the doctor
pronounced him out of danger.

Uncle Sam as a Solomon.

The departments at Washington are
now and then called upon to settle
petty questions of the most intimate
personal nature. For instance, the
treasury department once acted as
judge in a dispute between man and
wife.

This couple had had a spirited
struggle for the possession of several
bank notes, each holding fast to the
end of the "roll." A ten-dollar bill
was torn across the middle, and each
contestant carried off one-half of it
in triumph. Just here the treasury
department was brought into the dis-
pute. It received half of the bill from
the wife, with the statement
that the other half had been de-
stroyed, and she requested a new
bill. In a short time there arrived
the second half of the bill from the
husband, with a similar statement
and request. As the government then
had both ends of the bill, it ren-
dered a Solomon-like decision and
awarded five dollars to each of the
claimants.—Harper's Weekly.

Touched Her Sympathy.

A kind-hearted lady was collecting
for the Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Children. She paid a se-
ries of house-to-house visits, and at
one door her knock was answered by
a rather stupid-looking servant, says
Pearson's Weekly.

The lady explained her errand; that
she was collecting small sums for the
funds of the Society for the Preven-
tion of Cruelty to Children, but the
girl found this title rather too much
of a mouthful. She went upstairs to
the nursery, where her mistress was
hard at work bathing and dressing
half a dozen lively, shouting children,
and trying at the same time to coax
the recently arrived baby to go to
sleep, and announced: "Please'm,
there's somebody at the door collect-
in' for the Society for the Prevention
of Children."

The worried mother sent down a
willing donation of half a dollar.

Character Told by Laughter.

A French paper has discovered that
a person's character is expressed in
his manner of laughing. If you laugh
in "Ha ha" fashion, you are frank if
a man and inconstant and incapable
of keeping a secret if a woman. If
you laugh "Heh, heh," you are neu-
rasthenic, melancholy and skeptical.
If you laugh a deeper tone and laugh
in "Ho, ho," you are generous, easy-
going and good-natured. The proper
pitch for the fair sex to laugh in is
"He, he," while people who laugh
with a "Hoo, hoo" effect should be
avoided as hypocritical, scandal-mo-
nagering and mischievous.

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